Thoracic Cage
- Protects the heart, lungs and vessels
- Supports bones of the shoulder girdle
- Plays a role in breathing
Sternum

- Breastbone
- Often used for red marrow biopsy
- Consists of three parts
  - Manubrium - superior portion
    - Articulates with clavicle and 1\textsuperscript{st} two pair of ribs
  - Body - middle
  - Xiphoid process - inferior
    - Hyaline cartilage in kids; ossifies in adults
Suprasternal notch

- Easily palpable, central indentation in the superior margin of the manubrium
Ribs

- 12 pair, each pair attached to each thoracic vertebrae
- **True ribs** (vertebrosternal) - 7 upper pair
  - Attach to sternum directly by individual costal cartilage
- **False ribs** (vertebrochondral) - 5 lower pair
  - Costal cartilage doesn't reach sternum directly
- **Floating ribs** (vertebral) - no anterior attachment
Pectoral girdle

- **Consists of two bones**
  - *Clavicle - anterior*
    - Collarbone
    - Articulates with manubrium and scapula
    - Most frequently fractured bone in the body
  - *Scapula - posterior*
    - Shoulder blade
    - Articulates with clavicle and humerus
    - Has points of attachment for muscles involved in movement of shoulder and arm
Scapula

- **Acromion process** - articulates with the clavicle
  - Forms the point of the shoulder

- **Coracoid process** - forms a hook that projects forward under the clavicle

- **Glenoid fossa** - where head of the humerus connects with the scapula